

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VICTOR 00146 251429Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----251436Z 102585 /50

P 250715Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 290
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T VICTORIA 146

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, OCLR, PFOR, SE
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MILITARY ACCESS TO SEYCHELLES

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER PUGH INFORMED ME MAR 24 THAT PRESIDENT MANCHAM HAS TURNED DOWN IRANIAN REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE FOR IRANIAN AIR FORCE C-130 TO UTILIZE SEYCHELLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHILE AIRCRAFT EN ROUTE TO LESOTHO. ACCORDING PUGH, MANCHAM HAD TELEPHONED HIM JUST BEFORE WE MET, STATED THAT IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON HAD MADE REQUEST MARCH 23 THROUGH SEYCHELLES' HIGH COMMISSIONER RASSOOL AND READ TEXT OF HIS TELEX MESSAGE DENYING REQUEST. MANCHAM SAID GROUNDS FOR DENIAL WAS FACT THAT SEYCHELLES DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR C-130 WHICH HE SAID WAS TRANSPORTING MUNITIONS.

2. PUGH SAID HE DID NOT OFFER "DISSENTING OPINION" ON MANCHAM'S DECISION TO DENY REQUEST SINCE, UNDER AGREEMENT, MILITARY ACCESS DENIED TO OTHER THAN "CURRENT USERS", I.E. U.S. AND U.K. HE COMMENTED TO ME THAT, WHILE HE WAS PLEASED MANCHAM HAD BROUGHT MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION, IT WAS NOT OBLIGATORY FOR GOS TO CONSULT IN THIS INSTANCE SINCE INCLINATION WAS TO DENY ACCESS.

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PAGE 02 VICTOR 00146 251429Z

MATTSON

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Message Attributes

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